

Various Radio Stations  
in Louisiana

MAY 26, 1960

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Your Washington Report, Senator Russell B. Long, over various radio  
stations in Louisiana:

CPYRGHT

COMMENTATOR: "Senator Long, most of our people in Louisiana are familiar with your feelings in regard to the U-2 incident and the summit meeting which never met and the comment in this country, but, inasmuch as the President this past week made a lengthy speech on the matter, and, as you are a member of the foreign Relations Committee, which started hearings this week--some have called them an investigation--I'd like you to clarify that matter and again put your stand fairly in front of the people."

SENATOR LONG: "Bob, I said at the time of the U-2 incident that I didn't think it would serve any purpose to hold an investigation into this matter. Now it is customary that the Secretary of State, or any other officials representing this country at a major conference, would come back and report to us how things are going and how they made out. Such a report, of course, is being made to the Foreign Relations Committee and will be made to the others. Now, as far as the U-2 aircraft that was shot down over Russia is concerned, I don't think that we can afford to lay out in the open all the things that we are doing as far as military intelligence is concerned."

"You can call it espionage work or spy work if you want to, but the fact is that every country, particularly a country with the defense interest that we have, has to know what the other fellow is up to if it can find out. I think the President, by the way, made a good presentation of his side of the case as far as that incident was concerned. I did feel that he glossed over one or two areas of it. One thing being, I don't think that it was very wise to start out by denying that that plane was sent deliberately into Russia, because then we had to wind up admitting it. It would have been better to have just kept our mouth shut from the very beginning and waited to see if they had that pilot. But I don't think that it is going to help either party particularly and, I think, as a responsible Democratic party, we should not want to embarrass our nation at a time when this case is before the--you might say--world opinion and the public opinion bar of the world."